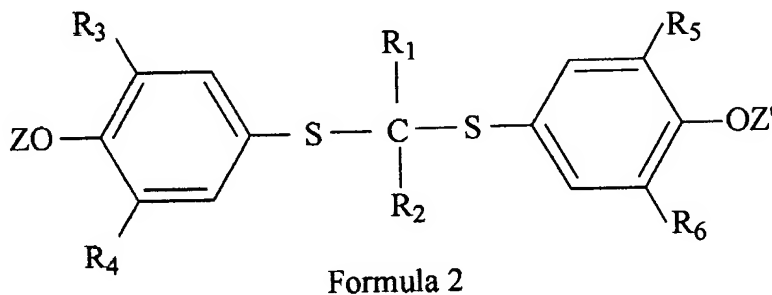


Amendments to the Claims:

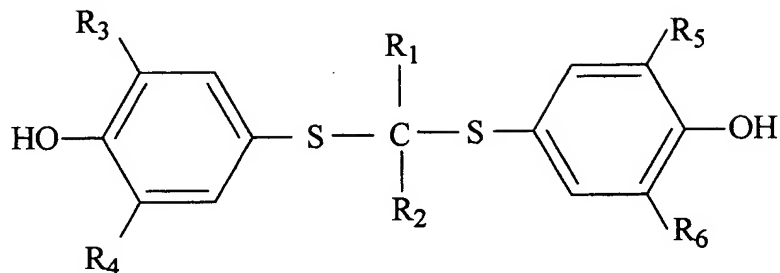
This listing of the claims will replace all prior art versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): In a process for the preparation of a water-soluble derivative of probucol having the following formula



where R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and are $-C_1 - C_6$ alkyl, $-C_3 - C_6$ alkenyl or aryl, R_3 , R_4 , R_5 and R_6 are the same or different and are $C_1 - C_6$ alkyl, Z and Z' are the same or different and are hydrogen or the group $-C(O) - C_1$ to C_6 alkyl- $C(O)OH$ where Z and Z' can not both be hydrogen by (1) the reaction of a probucol compound of the formula



where R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 and R_6 are as previously defined with a compound selected from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxide, alkali metal alkoxide, alkyl ammonium alkoxide, alkyl ammonium hydroxide and mixtures thereof thereby forming an ammonium or alkali metal salt of said probucol compound (2) reacting said salt with a carboxylic acid anhydride to form a reaction mixture and (3) separating said water soluble probucol derivative from said reaction mixture the improvement comprising using as a solvent for reaction step 1 a compound having the formula $R-C(O)-R'$, where R and R' are the same or different and are $C_1 - C_6$ alkyl, $C_2 - C_6$ alkenyl, $C_6 - C_{12}$ aryl, $C_6 - C_{12}$ aryl substituted with at least one $C_1 - C_6$ alkyl, $C_5 - C_{12}$ heteroaryl or $C_5 - C_{12}$ heteroaryl substituted with at least one $C_1 - C_6$ alkyl.

Claim 2 (originally presented): In the process according to claim 1 where R and R' are the same or different and are $C_1 - C_6$ alkyl.

Claim 3 (originally presented): In the process according to claim 2 where R and R' are methyl or ethyl.

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Claim 4 (originally presented): In the process according to claim 3 where R and R' are methyl.

Claim 5 (currently amended): In the process according to claim 1 wherein the ratio of said solvent to the probucol derivative, by weight, is from about 2:1 to about 1:5.

Claim 6 (originally presented): In the process according to claim 5 wherein the ratio is from about 1:1 to about 3:10.

Claim 7 (originally presented): In the process according to claim 6 wherein the ratio is 3:5.

Claim 8 (currently amended): In the process according to claim 1 where the reaction temperature of step (a) (1) is from about 15° to about 75°C.

Claim 9 (originally presented): In the process according to claim 8 wherein said reaction temperature is from about 30° to about 60°C.

Claim 10 (originally presented): In the process according to claim 9 wherein said reaction temperature is from about 35° to about 45°C.

Claim 11 (originally presented): In the process according to claim 1 wherein the pH of the reaction mixture formed in reaction step (2) is reduced to less than 7 and then an organic hydrocarbon solvent having the formula C_nH_{2n+2} where n is an integer from 5 to 12 is added to the reduced pH reaction mixture.

Claim 12 (originally presented): In the process according to claim 11 wherein the integer n of the hydrocarbon solvent is 6 to 9.

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Claim 13 (originally presented): In the process according to claim 12 wherein the hydrocarbon solvent is hexane or heptane.

Claim 14 (originally presented): In the process according to claim 13 wherein the hydrocarbon solvent is admixed with the compounds of Formula 2 at temperatures $>40^{\circ}\text{C}$ but not above 150°C .

Claim 15 (originally presented): In the process according to claim 14 wherein the temperature is about 45°C to about 75°C .